DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 120 397 CE 006 630

TITLE	A Dialogue Between Steilacoom and McNeil Island Federal Penitentiary--Neighbors for 100 Years: Final Evaluation Report.
INSTITUTION	Steilacoom Prisoners' Support House, Wash.
SPONS AGENCY	Washington State Commission for the Humanities, Olympia.
PUB DATE	Dec 75
NOTE	53p.; Photographs will not reproduce in microfiche
EDRS PRICE	MF-$0.83 HC-$3.50 Plus Postage
DESCRIPTORS	Community Attitudes; Community Involvement; *Community Programs; Community Relations; Community Support; Conference Reports; Correctional Rehabilitation; *Corrective Institutions; Crime; Discussion Programs; Humanism; *Human Relations Programs; *Intergroup Education; Prisoners; Program Descriptions; Program Effectiveness; *Program Evaluation; Punishment; Recidivism

ABSTRACT

The report evaluates a project to stimulate dialog between staff and inmates of a Federal penitentiary and members of a nearby community. The purpose was to bring prison and community people together to begin discussion of crime, punishment, rehabilitation, and recidivism in an atmosphere of informed, reflective thought. Nearly 500 people participated in four three-hour sessions, which included a general presentation, a question and answer period, and small-group discussions. The evaluation procedure used is known as the "Zeitgeist" technique; the best ideas heard at each session were noted on cards by participants, anonymously, along with demographic data. This information was summarized and distributed at each successive meeting. The first part of the document reports on quantitative measures and includes a narrative of events, statistical data, and an assessment of the project's impact on people and the community. The second part reports on quantitative measures and includes a discussion of the involvement of professional humanists in the project and an assessment of the extent to which the project objectives were achieved. Deemed generally successful, the project suffered from ambiguity toward action as a project objective. Among the appendixes are the Zeitgeist summaries and a speech by the penitentiary warden. (AJ)

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ED120397

A DIALOGUE BETWEEN STEILACOOM AND McNEIL ISLAND FEDERAL PENITENTIARY—NEIGHBORS FOR 100 YEARS

FINAL EVALUATION REPORT

Steilacoom, Washington
December 1975

Sponsored by: STEILACOOM PRISONERS' SUPPORT HOUSE

Co-Sponsored by: ASSOCIATED MINISTRIES OF TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY
INTERACTION, SEATTLE
BOARD OF MINISTRIES TO THE WORLD,
Oberlin Congregational Church

Sponsored in part by: WASHINGTON COMMISSION FOR THE HUMANITIES

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PREFACE

"A new potential for reconciliation seems to be growing from our dialogues. We and the prisoners are not forgetting the victims that brought us together here this evening, yet somehow, we and the prisoners need to move to new hope and actions that build more caring, more responsible citizens among us all."

A Participant
Steilacoom-McNeil Dialogues
October 1975

A. QUANTITATIVE MEASURES

1. What Happened?

Four public dialogue meetings were held in the Oberlin Congregational Church, in Steilacoom, Washington: Saturday, October 4 (2:00-5:00 p.m.); Friday, October 10 (7:30-10:30 p.m.); Friday, October 17 (7:30-10:30 p.m.); Saturday, October 25 (2:00-5:00 p.m.).

Just over 500 persons attended the four sessions--40 of these were children cared for during the meetings. The average adult attendance was 116 persons per session. Each session lasted longer than the scheduled three hours and included 1) a general presentation, 2) a question and answer period, and 3) four smaller group discussions averaging 30 persons per group. The evaluation procedure used is known as the "Zeitgeist" or Fast Forum technique. Each participant was given a card at the beginning of a session and invited during the session to write down the best ideas he/she heard during the meeting plus data regarding their sex, age group and occupation. No name was requested. This information was summarized and handed out to participants at the opening of each successive meeting.

The content of the four dialogues was as follows:

SESSION I. "McNeil, Prison of 100 Years"
- McNeil and Steilacoom as part of the history of Puget Sound
- The history of community/prison relations
- Changes occurring over the past 100 years
- The purpose of prisons in our society

SESSION II. "Steilacoom: The Crossroads of Freedom and Imprisonment"
- The prison's affect on life in Steilacoom - past and present
- Personal values, feelings and beliefs about prison & prisoners
- Philosophies of imprisonment

SESSION III. "Citizen Protection and Criminal Rehabilitation: Myths and Realities"
- The connections between enforcing laws and re-inforcing programs for law breakers
- What is meant by "protection?"
- What is meant by "rehabilitation?"

A.

1. (Cont'd.)

SESSION IV. "Direction and Alternatives for the Future"

Focus on the future
Free and imprisoned, entering an unknown future

Leadership for the dialogues came from the following places:

14 - Faculty members at University of Washington; University of Puget Sound; Pacific Lutheran University; Tacoma Community College; Ft. Steilacoom Community College

6 - Inmates at McNeil Federal Penitentiary

5 - Steilacoom citizens

3 - McNeil prison employees

3 - Parole and Rehabilitation employees

2 - Consulting social scientists

2 - Social workers

2 - Public school employees

2 - Steilacoom Prisoners' Support House

1 - Religious leader

1 - Fiscal agent

2. Narrative of the Events

Four open and well informed dialogue sessions were held in Steilacoom's Oberlin Congregational Church. Each session as noted earlier had several foci toward which discussion could be directed.

Murray Morgan, Instructor in History at Tacoma Community College, gave the major address opening the first dialogue. He spoke generally on history of the Puget Sound area and specifically on history of McNeil Island. A panel of four speakers followed him with additional comments. Panel members were asked specifically to speak on additional topics and not to simply respond to the main speaker. Following the presentations, participants divided into four discussion groups each with a panel member and a facilitator.

Though session number one, like all the others, was scheduled for three hours duration, more time was needed. Each speaker absorbed more time than originally allotted leaving little time for discussion. Though this disrupted some personal schedules and frustrated some participants, the majority of those in attendance had so much enthusiasm for the programs that they stayed an extra hour or more for the discussions.

A.

2. (Cont'd.)

Session two, entitled, "Steilacoom: The Crossroads of Freedom and Imprisonment," was a program designed to elicit people's feelings. The dialogue opened with four McNeil inmates presenting original poetry, music, and dramatic readings. Their very moving performance seemed to touch everyone and to set the stage for a night of personal exploration and soul searching. Dr. Daniel Kelleher, counselor and psychologist, and Alice Watson, Town resident, followed the inmates with comments about the prison, prisoners and Steilacoom.

Each of the four discussion groups that followed the program had, in addition to those humanists who made formal presentations, one academic humanist consultant. They had an opportunity to respond to what they had seen and heard and to bring additional information that would further stimulate discussion on the issues considered in this session.

In session three the issues of citizen protection and criminal rehabilitation were thoroughly discussed. Speakers and panelists focused on defining the concepts of "protection" and "rehabilitation" and on the interrelationships between enforcing laws and de-criminalizing the lawbreaker.

Warden W. H. Rauch, Warden of McNeil Federal Penitentiary, and Judge Donald Horowitz, King County Superior Court, made the opening remarks. A panel of four selected humanists and professionals, plus Hugh Hubert, an inmate from McNeil, then each asked one question of either speaker. All but Hugh Hubert (who had been a guest speaker at the first dialogue) then made their own remarks.

Time again became a problem in this session but, remarkably, an audience of nearly 135 people stayed throughout all the speeches and discussion. Beginning at 7:30 p.m., the session did not draw to a close till 11:45 p.m!

The last session, on October 25th, drew together the thoughts and recommendations from the earlier sessions and led participants into a consideration of the unknown future. Edna Goodrich, Director of King County Juvenile Services, opened the program. A prisoner's wife was, somewhat spontaneously, also given time to speak. She had sat through three previous sessions and, feeling some frustration and deep desire to be heard, requested time to address the group regarding her feelings.

A.

2. (Cont'd.)

Warden Rauch joined three already selected panelists in the discussion groups. Each group had received the challenge to look at different perspectives of the future of prisons in our society and to explore how individuals or groups of individuals present, planned to enter into that future. No specific direction was demanded of anyone but everyone was asked to deal with the issue in their own fashion. After an hour of discussion, participants drew together again in one large body to hear reports of what happened in each group, and to hear closing remarks by the honorable Lyle Dunkin, Mayor of Steilacoom, and Dr. LeRoy Annis, Professor of English, University of Puget Sound.

Many moving moments marked the last session but none quite as powerful as the closing remarks by Dr. Annis. After summarizing the speeches made in the three previous sessions he went on to offer some guidelines for personal direction in the future. The session closed with a McNeil inmate leading everyone in singing <u>This Land is Your Land</u>, by Woody Guthrie.

Three of the four dialogue sessions were video-taped by inmates from McNeil using prison equipment. At least two of the sessions taped have been re-played at the prison with "community" residents in attendance. Four of the speakers took additional time to go to McNeil on Saturday morning, October 18th, to speak to inmates and to encourage more dialogue on the issues under discussion.

3. STATISTICS

Our proposal indicated we hoped to reach between 400 and 600 people through the four dialogue sessions. Through the media we hoped to reach 5000 or more persons. The evidence indicates we achieved both objectives. The statistics reported below describe the participant population in greater detail.

TABLE I ATTENDANCE AT THE FOUR DIALOGUE SESSIONS

Session	Adults	Child Care	Percent of Evaluation Cards Returned
I	100	7	64
II	123	9	74
III	134	5	64
IV	105	19	50
TOTALS	462	40	63.6%

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3. (Cont'd.)

The average attendance per session was 116 (including children, 126). The ethnic racial minorities in attendance were estimated for the four dialogues to be about 12.6 percent. Eight percent were Black, 2.2 percent Chicano, one percent Native American, and 1.3 percent Asian American.

From the 63.6 percent return of the evaluation cards distributed for these sessions, the following occupational, age and sex summaries have been made.

TABLE II * OCCUPATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS

OCCUPATION	Male	%	Female	%	Total	%
Prison Inmate	4	100			4	1.1
Prison Employee	6	100			6	1.6
Ex-Prison Inmate	2	100			2	.54
Student	26	35.6	47	64.4	73	19.8
Homemaker	2	2.8	69	97.2	71	19.3
Business	10	55.0	8	45.0	18	4.9
Industry	6	100			6	1.6
Professional	34	57.6	25	42.4	59	16.0
Educator	27	48.2	29	51.8	56	15.2
Government Employee	12	48.0	13	52.0	25	6.8
Other	26	59.1	18	40.1	44	12.0
Prisoner's wife			4	100	4	1.1
TOTALS	155	42.2	213	57.8	368	100.0

* Many respondents reported more than one occupation

TABLE III AGE AND SEX CHARACTERISTICS

AGE GROUP	Sex ?	Male	%	Female	%	Total	%	Rank
Under 19	1	9	60.0	6	40.0	15	5.2	5
21 - 35		53	37.3	88	62.0	142	48.5	1
36 - 50		29	39.7	44	60.3	73	24.9	2
51 - 65		20	50.0	20	50.0	40	13.7	3
Over 65		9	39.1	14	60.9	23	7.8	4
Age ?		1						
TOTALS	1	121	41.3	172	58.7	293	100.0	

A. 3. (Cont'd.)

It was unfortunate more prison inmates were not able to attend, but no doubt supervision of any larger group was a critical factor that limited the number allowed to attend. To compensate for this, however, on Saturady, October 11th, a special dialogue session was held at the prison at which several mainland citizens were able to be guests and participate with the men there in dialogue on the same issues being discussed in the Steilacoom meetings.

The church where the sessions were held in town chould have accommodated up to 250 people without difficulty. Pre-publicity did reach a large cross section of people in the Puget Sound area via the Seattle and Tacoma press and special interest newsletters, i.e., churches, schools, campuses. In the final occupational counts students were the largest group reported attending the dialogues, with homemakers second, professional third and educators fourth.

Radio spot announcements were also provided to help with publicity. Articles were carried before, during and after the dialogues in the Tacoma News Tribune, Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Lakewood Suburban Times, The University of Puget Sound Trail, the Staff Bulletin for Tacoma Public School employees, and the regular newsletter of the Tacoma-Pierce County Associated Ministries. (See copies of clippings in the Appendix.)

Seven or more communities are known to have participated in the Steilacoom-McNeil project. McNeil Island, Steilacoom, Lakewood, Tacoma, Seattle, Puyallup, and Centralia all had participants at the dialogues who came two or more times.

From the fifty percent return of the evaluation cards at the last session of the project, an estimate of frequency of attendance at all four sessions was determined. Twenty-five percent indicated they attended all four sessions. Twenty-three percent said it was their first session; thirteen percent reported they had attended three sessions; and eight percent said they had attended two sessions. Thirty-one percent did not answer this question on their card.

The number of professional humanists, by discipline, who assisted one or more times with planning and execution of the Steilacoom-McNeil porject is summarized as follows:

5	History	Comparative	52	Social Science (TOTAL)	5	Soc. Welf.,Soc. Work
	Philosophy	2 Religion	1	Sociology	5	Psychology
11	Literature	Linguistics	2	Probation & Parole	12	Educators
2	Languages	Archeology	3	Rehabilitation	16	Urban Affairs
5	Jurisprudence	Ethics	7	Criminology	1	Counselors

A. 3. (Cont'd.)

The additional activities conducted in connection with the four days of dialogue in Steilacoom and one special session held at the prison (the video-taped sessions re-played at the prison would extend the prison sessions to three), did include three special public invitations extended to all dialogue participants and their friends to take a guided tour of the extensive facilities on the island. The trips were planned for three successive Thursday mornings. They took approximately four hours plus travel time to and from the island. The number of people taking advantage of the tours varied from five to fifteen and was limited by weather and work responsibilities. Several people expressed regret that evening or weekend visits were not possible since home and work obligations prevented them from going during a week day. Those who did go reported great appreciation for the opportunity and a heightened awareness and insight gained regarding the purposes, processes and problems of the prison system.

A.

4. In response to this section of the evaluation report (i.e., impact of the program on people and community, increased understanding, group organization, ways people grew and expressed themselves, outcomes resulting from the dialogues), the WCH personnel will probably find the most comprehensive reply contained in the four "Zeitgeist" (Spirit of the times) summaries, one prepared at the conclusion of each of the dialogue sessions. They are to be found in the Appendix.

What the people heard and chose to write down on their evaluation cards speaks for itself and need not be re-stated here. For brevity, a sampling of those remarks is stated here.

> Society must change before prisons and prisoners can change. Of necessity we must focus on the roots of crime instead of punishment of its victims.
>
> It's who you are that determines your punishment. The unfairness of the criminal justice system was a good point brought out.
>
> As a wife of a new inmate, I'm trying to learn what it's all about. My husband is a first offender, own's his own business and we are people--not just someone that you wouldn't want to know.
>
> The idea of this meeting itself--the vastness of different opinions from varied sources gives an ability to form a truly enlightened opinion and unbaised stand.
>
> Bureaucratic lawbreakers must be brought to justice just as much as those who commit white collar or street-type crimes. I never thought of bureaucratic or political crimes before.
>
> I'm relieved to hear Jundge Horowitz say that punishment is not the issue in sentencing an offender--the judge's job is to choose the option most likely to help or correct the offender. And the Community is the best corrector.
>
> We need a broader range of programs to deal with conduct. There is no single solution to the crime or rehabilitation problem. There is a great need for more workshops such as this to enlighten the community about what the prison system and ex-felons' views are all about.
>
> People in prison are human beings like you and me, not stereotyped like the movies and T.V. make them appear to be. Prisoners are human and that understanding of people, any people, is based upon communication. Let's have more interaction with prisoners.
>
> Dr. Kelleher's point that criminals tend not to think of their victims as people--just as we tend to stereotype criminals, is so true.
>
> Group discussions were extremely worthwhile. . . .Good idea having an inmate in each group discussion.

A.
4. (Cont'd.)

An impressive idea presented in the discussion group touched on possibility of effecting the causal factor of crime such as the pathologic preoccupation with the capitalistic ethic. An equitable distribution of income and a minimum standard of living should be the primary goals.

If we can't respond to their (the prisoners') feelings, how can they respond to ours?

There has to be a way to start at the grass-roots level to get something done to change the prisons. We definitely need more community-based centers!!

One of the most helpful things was the summary of last week's seminar--appreciated the words about the Prisoners Support House and its open door policy. . . .Frequent topic of conversation at McNeil is why Nixon and Agnew are free and they are in prison for less.

The importance of the Support House and a real need for such a thing near all prisons. The opportunity for poor families to remain in contact with members in prison and how much it means to the prisoners to have visitors.

We never get through punishing the criminal. . . .It's just not fair or reasonable to continue to punish an individual (and his family) for life because of one or a few events in his life.

Ms. Edna Goodrich mentioned there is little in the way of mental health programs directed toward juvenile offenders. We need more.

You have good ideas (here) but you have to get money to implement these programs. Write grants.

The more public visitations into institutions, the less likely the abuse of power--volunteer!

. . . .select social-work-oriented individuals for positions of warden and assistant warden. Administrators with acute awareness of social problems and social dynamics within the various institutions in our society would hopefully be more amenable to innovative approaches. . .to crime and criminal behavior. Wardens and assistant wardens have by necessity been political pawns and subject to political forces that make the job of rehabilitation and social justice an impossible task.

Advertise opportunities for community involvement with prisoners. (Helping) groups to work with families of inmates are also needed.

In Minnesota there is no follow-up such as parole and the "concern" of the parole officer. (This refers to a fixed sentence with no early release. One serves the full term and that is the end of it.)

A.
4. (Cont'd.)

We need a pragmatic solution to stop criminal activity. Balance pragmatic solution with constitutional protections and guarantees. Needed specifically:

(1) juvenile subsidy unit properly funded

(2) special program for abusive parents

(3) drug and alcoholic treatment centers outside of institutions

(4) new sentencing laws allowing more latitude for sentencing judge, including "shock sentences"

(5) effective probation for first offenders, i.e., by funding probation and parole offices so they make good on their promise to find training and jobs, etc.

(6) certain crimes to have amendatory sentences (low time served at first)

(7) different types of prisons tailored to different types of prisoners--from humane maximum security institutions to community-based institutions

(8) support for families of prisoners, e.g., Steilacoom Support House

(9) help for the victims of crime with money and services so they can maintain objectivity

(10) identify causes of crime and attempt to eradicate them--poverty, alcohol, drugs, discrimination, unfair laws, etc.

Assistant Warden Richard Lindsey's presentation of current statistical information describing McNeil Federal Penitentiary was one of the most requested documents resulting from the speeches given. A copy is provided in the Appendix.

As a measure of the degree of interest generated by the dialogues and the geographical dispersion of that interest, it may interest the WCH to know that sixty-one requests for copies of the final evaluation report were made by persons in attendance at the last session. They gave names and addresses from the following communities:

TACOMA	22	SUMNER	1
STEILACOOM	10	AUBURN	1
McNEIL PRISON	7	RENTON	1
SEATTLE	4	KENT	1
CENTRALIA	3	ALGONA	1
FEDERAL WAY	2	BUCKLEY	1
PUYALLUP	2	GIG HARBOR	1
LOS ANGELES	1	BELLEVUE	1
ANAHEIM	1	BREMERTON	1

A.

4. (Cont'd.)

EVALUATOR'S COMMENTS

1. I was surprised and pleased at the size and diversity of the audience the Steilacoom-McNeil dialogues were able to attract and hold. The location for the sessions was not particularly easy to get to for someone unfamiliar with the area.

2. The contributions by the humanist speakers and discussion facilitators was generally excellent to superior in quality. Their contributions were on target, they were able to relate their particular expertise in a relevant manner to the the topics at hand, and especially, they became involved in the dialogues. There was mutual respect expressed between layman and expert, between citizens and specialists. There was general acknowledgement that we, collectively, have not solved the prison and crime-related problems and that we must work harder, together, to find better answers, better solutions for the problems of our brothers and our sisters, free and imprisoned.

3. The sense of concern for prisoners, for victims of crime, for better, more appropriate penalties and rehabilitative procedures, for coordinated social reforms that would reduce the pressures that cause people to commit crimes, has grown as a result of the dialogues. There was a keen desire expressed in many ways by many people that the momentum begun here not be allowed to die.

4. This group did not lack for ideas as to what might be done next. Some of those ideas and suggestions have already been stated in this report and particularly in the summary statements found in the Appendix. The summing up by Dr. LeRoy Annis at the conclusion of the last dialogue session expressed the sentiments of many people present. They were as follows:

a) If we want things to change, to be better, we have got to do them.

b) Those who needed exposure to these dialogues most, weren't here.

c) We must beware of making scapegoats--we're all human, we're all guilty of something.

d) We're talking about changed attitudes and changed communities of people--this is the broader task we have assigned ourselves.

e) We tend to become institutionalized in our own particular ways; we need to be self-aware if we wish to keep ourselves open.

5. What were the "little things" that made this project effective? Thorough planning. A well conceived and planned brochure. The coordinated and conscientious manner in which the humanists, planners, support roles (photographer, public address arrangers, chair movers, clean-up personnel, childcare assistants, refreshment planners, providers, and servers, prison and public printers) and one

A.

4. (Cont'd.)

beautiful group of people, namely the people who cared enough to come and wrestle with these complex problems,--they, together, produced the ideas and the words that hopefully are going to make some difference.

6. What weaknesses did I observe? More prison inmates participating was frequently requested. More Steilacoom citizen participation was hoped for. Many people want opportunities to become more involved with prison and prisoner contact through one-to-one arrangements, through groups such as SIG (Self Improvement Group), and other ways. It is not clear that the present paths to these and possibly new types of involvement were made visible for those seeking action <u>now</u>. People should have been reminded at the first dialogue that no smoking was the rule inside the church and that eating should be done outside the sanctuary. Agreement with the Tacoma Public Schools educational television station to videotape and telecast the series fell through at the last moment--this was unfortunate.

B. QUALITATIVE MEASURES

1. Involvement of Professional Humanists in Program

Four years ago the Steilacoom Prisoner Support House opened its doors as a hostel for the families and friends of inmates at McNeil Island Federal Penitentiary. Over the years since that auspicious beginning, the Support House had directly helped thousands of people wanting to visit loved ones incarcerated at McNeil. It has also increasingly become an advocate for improved prison/community relations in communities touching lower Puget Sound.

The relationship between the people of Steilacoom and the people in McNeil was the initial focus for the program, "A Dialogue Between Steilacoom and McNeil: Neighbors for 100 Years." We discovered, however, that the specific issues affecting Steilacoom/McNeil affect all those concerned about rehabilitation, recidivism, freedom, crime, citizen protection and the prospects for future change in prison/community relations. People attended the dialogue sessions from Portland, Port Angeles, Bremerton, Tacoma, Seattle, Centralia, Steilacoom and other nearby communities. There seemed to be no geographic boundary, only ultimate concern.

With a wide variety of people in attendance, the dialogue took on piquant flavors, sometimes intense and sometimes relaxing. The speakers set the stage, stimulated new thoughts and introduced new issues. Everyone in attendance contributed to the understanding.

Every speaker made a contribution. Each had received a copy of the program, a list of foci for discussion during their session and specific questions for them to address. They adhered to their topics but generally took more time than that allotted them. Time was a frustrating factor in at least three of the four sessions. Session two escaped the problem only by having humanist speakers make their individual remarks in the separate discussion groups rather than before the main body of people. The audience stayed even when speeches ran over the 2½ hour mark set for the total dialogue session. Eagerness and impatience for the group discussions was very apparent in each session as some speakers insisted on making "one last point."

The following list outlines the major themes touched on by the speakers. Murray Morgan, Instructor of History, Tacoma Community College, gave a history of the Puget Sound area leading up to the naming of McNeil Island and its development as the location for a federal prison. He brought out how the residents of Steilacoom fought to have a federal prison at McNeil because of its financial promise and yet how reluctant people have now become to recognize its importance in the area and to help meet the needs it has generated.

Dr. David Brubaker, Professor of History and Urban Studies, University of Puget Sound, discussed the evolution of prison techniques saying that the "military pattern," captializing on work, obedience and punishment, now pervades the American prison system.

Hugh Hubert, an inmate at McNeil and secretary of the Self Improvement Group (SIG) at the prison, introduced a theme that continued throughout the four dialogue sessions. "Prisons will not change until there are fundamental changes in society."

Richard Lindsey, Executive Assistant to the Warden, McNeil Federal Prison, gave some significant statistics about McNeil today. He said, too, that prisons exist to protect the community but today depend on those community people it protects, to, in turn, play an increasingly responsible role in prison activities.

Jerry Kuns, writer, and perhaps the most radical speaker, made several important points. First, prisons are warehouses for the poor, rebellious and oppressed. Second, our economic system creates a "poor class" of people and then the prison system punishes them when they steal.

Prisoners opened session number two with poetry, music and dramatic readings about prisoners' experiences at McNeil. Said one, "What I hate most about being here is that everything I call life isn't here." Theirs was the poetry of loneliness, isolation and frustration.

Dr. Daniel Kelleher, counselor and clinical psychologist, University of Washington, followed the prisoners in session two with a plea for community involvement in prisons. "Please, don't leave problem solving in the hands of the experts."

Alice Watson, Steilacoom town resident, urged the people of Steilacoom to help preserve and sustain the Steilacoom Prisoners Support House. The Support House, she said, is important to the prison (because of the service it provides for families of prisoners), and to Steilacoom (beacuse it is a way for people in Steilacoom to be involved with the prison).

Warden W. H. Rauch, Warden, McNeil Island Federal Penitentiary, made several important points regarding prisons. First, "Society must impose a restriction on criminals, but it should be the least punitive form of restriction necessary to correct the action." Secondly, people have developed false conceptions about rehabilitative programs for inmates partially because the news media have only publicized the few failures as, for example, with the furlough program. Thirdly, he said, "Everyone share responsibility for crime in our society, not just those in prison."

Judge Donald Horowitz, King County Superior Court, emphasized the connection between enforcing laws and re-inforcing programs for law-breakers. He differentiated between three types of law-breakers: (a) street law-breakers (burglars); (b) white collar law-breakers (embezzlers); and (c) bureaucratic law-breakers. In reference to the latter of these he told the audience how bureaucratic structures selectively execute laws emphasizing some and de-emphasizing others. He called for a broader range of programs aimed at correcting the behavior of law-breakers.

Rev. Leo Brown, Director, Progress House, Tacoma, outlined ways community people might enable former offenders to re-enter society. We can put pressure on the legislature; participate in prison programs like the culture groups or Jaycees; write letters to the news media for clarification of news reporting; provide jobs and sponsor former offenders.

Dr. John Strait, Professor of Law, University of Puget Sound, drew attention to "political crime." The politicians are defining crime. They have adjudged crimes against property more serious than people's personal safety. They pass laws too, that are directed solely at controlling a section of the population as, for example, welfare cases. Laws passed define people as "criminals" rather than dealing with the social causes of crime.

Ted Wiseman, District Supervisor, State Department of Probation and Parole, offered a hard-line case against those reforms in prisons which encourage a relaxed and often remissful attitude among inmates. He emphasized the importance of regulations and stressed that "due process" cannot work behind prison walls because, "They do not think like we do."

Dr. J. Tim Hanson, Professor of English, University of Puget Sound, tried to undercut the cultural myth of the "criminal character." He challenged people to think about all the violence, vengeance, and aggression in American society before placing the blame for crime solely on criminals.

Edna Goodrich, Director, King County Juvenile Services, addressed the group on, "Free and imprisoned entering an unknown future." In essence, she called for a multiplcity of corrective or rehabilitative programs and for a caring attitude from the public: "Reject what the criminal did but don't reject the person."

Dr. LeRoy Annis, Professor of English, University of Puget Sound, summarized what he heard the speakers before him saying and offered some observations on what we accomplished. "We came to talk about prisoners, prisons and community and were forced to talk about society."

Lyle Dunkin, Mayor of Steilacoom, added his perception of the dialogue. For him it was a dialogue between prisons and free society, not between McNeil Prison and Steilacoom.

Our intention for this dialogue program was to bring prison and community people together to begin discussion of crime, punishment, rehabilitation and recidivism in an atmosphere of informed reflective thought. We were able to expand knowledge about what goes on behind prison walls, excite some future interaction between the prison at McNeil and the people who attended the dialogues, explain further, and develop recognition of, the Support House and its services, and provide a broad learning experience which moved, challenged and educated those who attended.

Several themes pervaded the discussions but one, introduced in the beginning by Hugh Hubert, predominated. In his talk he said there cannot be changes in prisons until there are fundamental changes in society. For other speakers, making

changes in our prisons required us to focus our attention on: the economy; politics; bureaucracy; education; the "take-take-take" world we live in; the selfishness of the people; the aggressiveness and revenge reflected in the myths of the culture; and the "criminal character of society."

Talking about one social problem led naturally into a thorough discussion of others. John Seeley once asked in an article entitled, "The Problem with Social Problems," why is crime called a social problem when university administration is not? After this dialogue most would probably have to answer, "Oh, but it is." The paradoxical conclusion: whatever we do (directly or indirectly) in our society will end up affecting the problems of crime and prisons sooner or later. People simply have to broaden their definition of the problems. And this dialogue helped all to understand that.

Recommendations at the conclusion of the sessions centered around things people would do for themselves and their communities, or for prisoners and their families. One participant plans to go on a speaking tour for the Support House taking a slide presentation and information about the Support House and its activities to local service clubs and churches. A newsletter containing information about prison and community programs will be published bi-monthly and sent to all those who attended the Dialogues. Some of those working for the Town of Steilacoom plan to look into their responsibilities to local youth as a way to possibly prevent crime in Steilacoom. Other recommendations included: (a) having other dialogue programs in other areas around Washington where there are prisons; (b) working for opportunities to take more children to McNeil; (c) visiting McNeil and participating in inmate initiated groups there; (d) becoming involved with education, economic, social service and health reform programs in different communities as a way to indirectly effect change in prisons; (e) dealing with community fears and prejudices; (f) encouraging legislation; (g) restoring civil rights for inmates; (h) initiating one-to-one relationships with inmates; (i) initiating counseling programs for the families of inmates; (j) establishment of an "Information Exchange" between families of inmates and prison administration; and (k) before making a large purchase at a store, finding out if employees there are required to report if they have criminal records or not before they are employed.

B.

2. How Well Did the Project Meet its Objectives?

A- MET The four dialogue sessions were held as proposed, during October 1975, in Steilacoom, Washington, at the Oberlin Congregational Church. An additional session was held at McNeil Federal Prison.

B- MET Steilacoom and McNeil Island communities plus six or seven others had active participants throughout the four sessions.

C- MET 462 adults and 40 children participated in the program (400-600 were anticipated). Media coverage exceeded 5000+ via the Tacoma News Tribune, Seattle Post-Intelligencer, church, school and suburban publications.

D- MET PARTIALLY The people expected as audience:

(In Percent)

CATEGORIES	EXPECTED	ACTUAL ESTIMATE
Prisoners	10	3-5 at Steilacoom sessions; additional numbers attended the McNeil special program & video tape showings
Elected Officials	5	1-2
Female	70	58
Male	30	42
Minority	10	12
White (Caucasian)	90	88
College Graduate	40	41
High School Diploma or Less	60	13
Ages: Under 19	(none estimated)	10
22 - 44	30	60
45 - 64	60	23
65 and over	10	7
Labor	40	2
Business	20	5
Professional (& Educators)	30	37
Unemployed or Underemployed	10	(No data)
Homemakers	(none estimated)	19
Prisoners' Wives	(" ")	1
Students	(" ")	20
Prison Employees	(" ")	2

B.

2. (Cont'd)

Additional Objectives

1. MET Enable the people of Steilacoom, prisoners and prison staff, the families of prisoners and other interested persons to engage in reflective dialogue with academic humanists about values and beliefs as related to the Town of Steilacoom and McNeil Penitentiary.

2. MET Consider basic public policy issue of prisoner rehabilitation and problem of recidivism.

3. MET Bring people together to rationally discuss issues that have traditionally created both negative and positive feelings.

4. MET Provide opportunity for each person to personally assess her or his values, beliefs and judgments in light of the humanists' knowledge and analytical methods.

5. MET Promote rational discussion of issues that might affect future public policy decisions.

6. MET Examine the positive and negative experiences of others who have confronted these issues in the past.

7. MET Humanists will define terms, promote atmosphere of reflective thought, help participants re-evaluate values, beliefs and judgments and bring the special knowledge of their disciplines to bear on the issues.

3. Criticism of the Project

On the whole, as project director, I was very pleased with the dialogue sessions. The topic lent itself to lively, sometimes even volatile, and encouraging dialogue. Publicity, planning and discussions all went well. Attendance never went below 100 persons and a healthy percentage of those came to more than one session. Cooperation with the prison exceeded everyone's expectations. At least five inmates and several prison personnel attended each session. The evaluation procedure (Zeitgeist Method) added an interesting dynamic to the sessions by revealing an assortment of reactions the audience had to speakers and format used.

B.

3. (Cont'd.)

There are, however, several items on which I might improve if another situation arose. They include:

a. Using fewer speakers;
b. More rigid regulation of the time allotted to speakers;
c. Broadening the title of the project to make clear that attendance is not limited;
d. Holding all sessions in the evening (more people came on Friday nights than Saturday afternoons);
e. Broadening the style and format of the sessions making more use of group discussion, films, and games as tools to increase participation and dialogue;
f. Requesting the first 20 percent of grant funds sooner to assure having it when the project staff is ready to get under way.

Gratitude and appreciation are due the Oberlin Congregational Church for permission to use their facilities; the Steilacoom Town Hall staff and Cherrydale Elementary School for use of their chairs; and all those persons who baked cookies, offered materials and/or time to the project. Everyone's cooperation was most appreciated. The project accomplished its goals primarily because of the assistance and devotion of all those involved.

4. Critique of WCH

The Washington Commission for the Humanities staff made themselves available and assisted project directors at several crucial junctures. Some of the immense work necessary was made easier by their concise directions. I have only a few additional evaluative comments to make. First, the requirement of involving academic humanists in planning was unrealistic. Planning requires long hours and most of the humanists we contacted, though willing to offer ideas, did not have time to attend planning meetings. I found that being able to bounce ideas off key individuals was adequate and trying to involve them further only resulted in some degree of frustration.

Secondly, it appears to some as though WCH wants dialogue for the sake of dialogue it its programs. It would help, particularly community service-oriented groups, to know where WCH stands on what it hoped would result from its programs. Our program planners hoped for some "action" to result from their efforts, but a

B.

4. (Cont'd.)

pervasive hesitancy about whether or not to encourage this existed because of an uneasy feeling about what WCH wants. Further clarification of this matter would help future grantees.

Finally, WCH and/or project directors, might inform the media about what resulted from the various projects funded. We confronted some feeling among press people that little happens as a result of WCH programs. As we are concerned about press coverage before and during events, perhaps there ought to be an inducement for press follow-up after evaluations are completed. This might also continue the dialogue of ideas in the wider community and encourage wider follow-up.

5. (Already noted elsewhere)

6. Views regarding the State Theme

WCH has shown to community, service, educational and other organizations around Washington that it is open to a wide variety of applications. WCH brochures appear in homes, schools, and meetings everywhere inviting participation. The theme selected, THE PUBLIC INTEREST: GOVERNMENT AND THE INDIVIDUAL 1776 - 1976 AND BEYOND, provides those heterogeneous people and groupings opportunity to expand and explore a plethora of topics. That theme is succinct enough to have relevance yet broad enough not to limit participation.

A P P E N D I X

COPIES OF "ZEITGEIST" DIALOGUE SUMMARIES

SPEECH PRESENTED BY RICHARD LINDSEY

NEWS CLIPPINGS

STEILACOOM AND McNEIL: NEIGHBORS FOR ONE HUNDRED YEARS
FIRST SESSION SUMMARY
EVALUATOR: Dr. Leonard W. Holden

Oberlin Congregational Church
Steilacoom, Washington

October 7, 1975

RESPONSE CARDS

TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 100

CARDS RETURNED: 64

AGE

	M	F	TOTAL
under 19	2	0	2
20-35	13	16	29
36-50	4	10	14
51-65	7	5	12
over 65	3	4	7
TOTAL	29	35	64

OCCUPATION

	M	F	TOTAL
Prison Ex-inmate	2	0	2
Prison Inmate	2	0	2
Student	6	11	17
Homemaker	0	18	18
Business	2	2	4
Industry	2	0	2
Professional	7	2	9
Educator	5	5	10
Prison Employee	1	0	1
Government	3	1	4
Other	5	5	10
TOTALS	35	44	79

The first of the four one-day seminars planned for the month of October, was held last Saturday, October 4th. Exactly 100 people attended the opening program which included presentations by the well-known Northwest author, historian, commentator and college instructor, Murray Morgan; Assistant McNeil Warden, Richard Lindsey, McNeil prison inmate, Hugh Hubert; University of Puget Sound History and Urban Affairs Professor, Dr. Dave Brubaker, and writer, sociologist, Jerry Kuntz.

I. Sixty-four percent of the people present returned their response cards with their "Zeitgeist" (Spirit of the Times) reactions to the program presented by the speakers. What were the most frequent comments, the best ideas you, the citizen participants, reported? In order of frequency, they were:

1. "A wide variety of viewpoints were presented. This was needed to provoke thought. The various viewpoints were well balanced; the speakers were well informed; this session was very worthwhile, broadening, stimulating; the speakers were articulate." "Think the historical background is important--necessary to know where we've been and where we are in order to know where we're going-- and how to get there."

2. "Murray Morgan, although a little long, provided necessary and delightful details of local history; Morgan's presentation was witty, very detailed, outstanding. He was tops!"

3. "Hugh Hubert's words had eleven people writing: "Society must change before prisons and prisoners can change." "Of necessity we must focus on the roots of crime instead of punishment of its symptoms." "Reform must come through society and individuals themselves." "Society must change--but how can we teach ethics and morality to parents so that kids will have a better example to watch?" "I enjoyed Mr. Hubert's address the most because as a prisoner he does have a first hand view of matters."

4. "I liked the statistics presented by Mr. Lindsey." "The statistics were meaningful." "I was surprised to know that citizen participation was considered (by the Warden) to be such a big help in rehabilitation." "As a mater of fact, the warden even had some informative and practical presentation--emphasis on practical and hopeful programs."

5. Audience response comments were most divided over the comments made by Jerry Kuntz. The "Pro" comments read: "Jerry said it all." "Very fine thoughts, well spoken." "I liked the alterante reasons for prisons given by Kuntz." "It's who you are that determines your punishment." "The unfairness of the criminal justice system was a good point brought out." The "Con" comments read: "Last speaker negativistic." "Last speaker's talk was one-sided." "Can't accept Kuntz's simplistic interpretation of causation of crime." "Kuntz is a visionary that turns me off. While we wait to eradicate proverty (and thus crime) we still have to deal with the present criminal." "That type of thinking (Kuntz's) is dangerous and the usual cop-out excuses used by too many. Poor people do not need to steal." Mr. Kuntz was nothing--an embarrassment."

II. Additional ideas and suggestions that were not specifically related to the speakers, in order of their frequency, were:

a. Community involvement (more volunteers) is essential to the complete rehabilitation of inmates; education of the public is long overdue. The idea of community involvement in the prison structure is an obvious necessity in social rehabilitation.

b. Want more information concerning the volunteer programs at McNeil.

c. Let's get on with the main point of interest--Steilacoom-McNeil relationships and people involvement in helping prisoners and their families.

d. "The idea that prisons are headed toward a more rehabilitative end is good. Changes will be slow but effort must be constant and sober." "From these lectures it seems optimism prevails. I hope the future is as bright as that." "I feel that oppression and fear tactics are dead and should be buried. I disagree with military states and I think the prisons are run on that order."

e. What is this group's reaction to and feelings about community-based prison facilities?

f. Should have more prisoners (or ex-prisoners') viewpoints on the program.

g. We need group meetings for families of prison inmates.

h. Crime is part of your community.

i. Availability of jobs for ex-offenders has a positive influence in reducing recidivism.

j. Outside organizations can bring about change, e.g., Steilacoom Prisoner Support House.

k. Let's create an alternative to prison, especially for the first offenders.

l. The focus should be on what can be done at this point for the people at McNeil and get on with it. I think that is the only way future change can come about.

m. I would have like to have seen a debate between someone such as the inmate and the Assistant Warden.

n. I feel the panel might have been more effective if they had been together at a table or something and could have "bounced" ideas off each other.

o. It is a shame that the tours are scheduled for Thursday and Friday mornings as many working people will be unable to attend. Can weekend or afternoon tours be planned?

p. It was very important that child care was provided--I commend you (the planners) for that.

q. It is difficult to stay on schedule, however, for those of us traveling a distance to get here it is rather important.

r. For friends and families of prisoners the political issues seem the most pertinent and helpful. I felt too much time was spent on peripheral issues.

III. Finally, some extended personal statements recorded by members of the audience.

"I feel that through strong family relations and better understanding of prison staff can an inmate truly rehabilitate himself. Society has to know the true facts about prisoners. That all men incarcerated are not really bad and deserve a chance to prove so. Do something also about the Parole Board--it has too much power."

"As a wife of a new inmate, I'm trying to learn what it's all about. My husband is a first offender, own's his own business and we are people--not just someone that you wouldn't want to know. Mr. Lindsey was interesting."

"I agree that persons reflect the society around it. As society as a whole becomes more and more immoral, prisons can't really change. Reform must come through society and individuals themselves. I disagree with Mr. Kunts that to eliminate poverty will eliminate crime. It will only change the nature of the crimes. It is a noble thought, but even if everyone was wealthy, if they are morally decadent, crime will still abound. I believe community involvement can help in bettering prison life as it is now though."

"The idea of this meeting itself--the vastness of different opinions from varied sources give an ability to form a truly enlightened opinion and unbiased stand."

"It is encouraging to note participation in this program by the varied groups of people. The positive attitude seems healthy. Particularly enjoyed Mr. Morgan's presentation of the early history of the area."

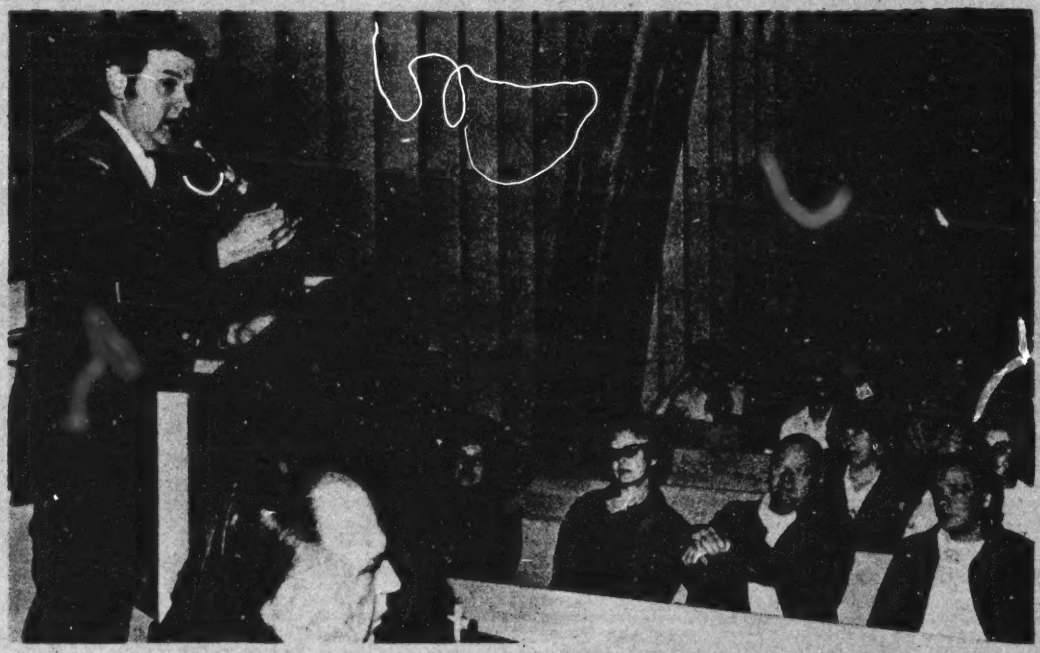
"The society is to blame for the occurrence of the criminal. Perhaps the point should be made, the criminal exists because the society exists, and as society changes so does the criminal change, yet toward his own end. Perhaps his own personality will not yield change."

"Since I kew absolutely nothing about the penal system in ganaral, I feel that just the opportunity to listen to speakers with knowledge in different areas on the subject was very informative and quite a pleasure. I am looking forward very much to the tour also."

"I am pleased with the number of people interested enough to come. I regret that more of the Steilacoom coummunity was not visible. I am impressed with the caliber of the speakers presented. A real opportunity to enlarge one's scope."

Alice Watson, resident of the Steilacoom community, offered some interesting history about the relationship between the town and the prison. A hundred years ago, the town people sought the prison an economic factor. In more recent times, the town people again fought to keep the prison located on McNeil Island when the Federal Bureau of Prisons considered closing it.

Many residents of Steilacoom and the immediate area are employed on McNeil Island. Since the town is residential - lacking an industrial base - the prison payroll is an important part of the economic base of the town.



W.H. Rauch, Warden of McNeil Island Penitentiary, speaking in the third session titled "Steilacoom/McNeil, Crossroads between Freedom and Imprisonment," emphasized the importance of family morale in rehabilitation of prisoners at McNeil Island. He strongly supports the Steilacoom Prisoners Support House as a positive factor in prisoner rehabilitation.

Groups of prisoners are visited by community volunteers as an important part of rehabilitation. Contact with people is an important way of presenting acceptable standards and community resources to the prisoners.

Among the audience are members of prisoners families and community residents.

Dr. Dave Brubaker, University of Puget Sound Professor of History and Urban Affairs, conducting a discussion group during the first session which covered the history and role of prisons in our society today.

STEILACOOM AND McNEIL: NEIGHBORS FOR ONE HUNDRED YEARS
SECOND SESSION SUMMARY
EVALUATOR: Dr. Leonard W. Nolden

Oberlin Congregational Church
Steilacoom, Washington

October 14, 1975

RESPONSE CARDS

Adult Attendance: 123
Child Care 9

Cards Returned: 92

OCCUPATION	M	F	TOTAL
	0	0	0
Prison Inmate	1	0	1
Student	8	13	21
Homemaker	1	20	21
Business	3	1	4
Industry	1	0	1
Professional	10	8	18
Educator	8	9	17
Prison Employee	3	0	3
Government	4	2	6
Other	9	6	15
TOTAL	48	59	107

AGE AND SEX	M	F	TOTAL
under 19	2	2	4
20-35	18	31	49
36-50	11	12	23
51-65	5	5	10
over 65	2	3	5
?	1		
TOTAL	39	53	92

Number of persons reporting attendence at both Sessions 1 and 2 = 26

The second of the four one-day seminars planned for the month of October, was held last Friday evening, October 10th. One hundred and twenty-three (123) people attended this program which included musical and poetic presentations by four McNeil prison inmates, Ralph Henry, Gary Menolian, R.B. Brown and Eli Williams. McNeil poets whose works were presented included Don Wooton, Randall Thomas, Moore, Bond, Howard and Ralph Henry. Dr. Dan Kelleher, Professor of Clinical Psychology at the University of Washington and Alice Watson, Steilacoom Town Resident were respondents to the topic: "Steilacoom: The Crossroads of Freedom and Imprisonment." Following these general presentations the audience divided into four discussion groups to continue the topics developed earlier.

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Seventy-four per cent of the people present returned their response cards with their "Zeitgeist" (Spirit of the Times) reactions to the program presented by the inmates and guest speakers. What were the most frequent comments, the best ideas you, the citizen participants, reported? In order of frequency, they were:

1. "A moving presentation by the inmates! This was a program of poignancy, loneliness, futility and longing. It makes us think about prisons more than all the intellectual discourses--as interesting as they were. Presentation powerful, real. Getting down! The program of readings and music by the inmates was really fantastic and moving--it demonstrated some sensitive talent and communicated to the audience the sheer misery and loneliness in jail. The feeling of time that presses on the prisoner--lack of beauty that is found in the world of bars and concrete. Readings and songs--heavy duty. The readings and songs demonstrated the repressive and dehumanizing atmosphere that prisoners are expected to function within. The gentleman who said, 'Everything that is life isn't here', said it all. A powerful experience to hear the prisoners express themselves in drama, poetry and song. Dramatic presentations by men of McNeil really made one feel the isolation, the punishment imprisonment itself is--without any additional punishment while in prison. Never again will I be able to hear "I'm leaving on a jet plane" without a lump in my throat. One hell-u-va session ..."

2. "People in prison are human beings like you and me, not stereotyped like the movies and T.V. make them appear to be. Prisoners are human and that understanding of people, any people, is based upon communication. Let's have more interaction with the prisoners. We need to get them interacting more with that "nameless, faceless group" out there--for more understanding on both sides. It is extremely important to open all lines of communication. No one person or group of persons has the answers, but together we could work out what is necessary for a more ideal solution. This portion of the symposium seemed to be more peaceful and the inmates added greatly to that fact. Their attitude was not to condemn society but rather offered good suggestions of how to change our system of treatment. Personalize. Inmates, staff and community must begin to see one another as individuals instead of groups--all people must see the humanness in each other instead of seeing others in group "we and they" terms--dehumanization may be a large problem with both crime and the treatment of criminals. The inmates at McNeil and all other

prisons need to be treated as human beings. We need to see them as men and women who have made a mistake and are paying for it. Treat them justly and give them their basic human rights. Just taking them out of society and away from their families is punishment enough for the majority of them. A very inspiring meeting-what we need more of is human contact--what a fantastic start this can be. This session points out the need of the community to become more aware of the human needs of the offender and his family. There are many organizations that work with the incarcerated and the released but there should be more individual participation and concern--and help. Get involved no matter what level--you as an individual can help."

3. Dr. Dan Kelleher's impassioned plea, "Don't leave it in the hands of the experts". I liked that. Loved it! I agree with Dr. Kelleher that prison problems should not be left to experts--especially if Kelleher is one of the experts! (Only negative opinion). It did bother me to hear a psychologist say he didn't have any ideas on how to improve the situation as it now exists. Dr. Kelleher's point that criminals tend not to think of their victims as <u>people</u>--just as we tend to stereotype criminals, is so true. Make the people responsible; our society is responsible, not the deficient numbers of professional people. Dr. Kelleher's excellent plea of, "Please do not leave it in our (the experts') hands)", we need more of this at every level--with the handicapped. The most important idea except for the expressions of the prisoners (in my opinion) was Dan Kelleher's concept of the importance of politics over the opinions of the experts--that actually it is we, the general public, who in the end determine what is done.

4. Alice Watson was articulate and compassionate and expressed very well an attitude which should contribute to good relations between the city and the prison. Alice Watson made a real contribution; I wish she would talk to her fellow citizens. Yeah for Alice Watson! Agree that Steilacoom benefits from McNeil and should also accept responsibility toward McNeil. Alice Watson--heartening and thoughtful.

5. GROUP DISCUSSIONS It was nice to be in a group where people were really concerned with what was going on. All were sincere and wanted to help. The group discussion was especially enlightening. I felt that there was much honesty from everyone who spoke tonight, a deep sincerity, also in the discussion groups. People should be educated to the many negatives to the couple and to society when a family breaks up because a man goes to prison. Would like to see more real dialog--little value judgement--between equals--between ordinarly people in town and those connected with prison. A chance where people feel really free to express where they are. The rap session afterward was great. Good idea having an inmate in each group discussion. I was really impressed by the number of people coming to give opinions and to hear them. I think that if there were more sessions, more people would get interested and maybe could improve ways of the prisons. Group discussions were extremely worthwhile. Much more of this interpersonal communication is needed. Group discussion started off slowly but then some real exchange of feelings--very worthwhile. The discussion group laid the foundation for community involvement finally.

6. [IDEAS] Separate hard criminals from those who have committed lesser crimes (non-violent). More concentration on punishment for first offenders (restitution--short periods of commitment). Should isolate sections of the (complex) problems and deal with them individually. Clean up the courts! Community-based institutions--but societal attitude will have to be changed. It would be nice if there was an expected norm that everyone would fit into, without being a caste system. Love each other as individuals and not as strangers; help them that help themselves. There should be more public contact with inmates. Many ideas expressed, but need for broader consensus is essential if any progress is to be made. We need to discuss further points made last week. The prisoner in our group enlightened me with his awareness of himself. Much insight was gained about the Prisoner Support House due to the impromptu outpouring of one of the inmates. How about having an arts and crafts sale for the Support House? Our papers and churches could be asked to advertise. Is this whole thing a forum for the Support House? It seems so from my discussion group. Men dominated the conversation (in group) and the two times women contributed ideas (as opposed to more conventional female questions), they were directly challenged and disagreed with. This was an extremely important meeting to get communication of problem to people who can help. Notice of existing means is very good. Start there, publicize those means. Have panel discussions between speakers and resource people, with questions-answer period following. That obviates what two-thirds of the participants always miss hearing by breaking into small groups. I was impressed by the large attendance rate! It was a great discussion, good ideas, but as always, no outcome or answers. But it is a start, bringing people together. Probably most people in Steilacoom who could be broadened were not present.

An impressive idea presented in the discussion group touched on the possibility of effecting the causal factor of crime such as the pathologic preoccupation with the captalistic ethic. An equitable distribution of income and a minimum standard of living should be the primary goals. Other useful half steps might include community based correction facilities, increased educational and counseling opportunities, de-

criminalization of victimless crimes.

7. [Some unique, additional statements by members of the audience.]

"My eyes are being opened--thank you--but how do you change society?"

"liked first part very much had very moving feeling. Group was very good should be continued past the end of the seminar. It's all on our shoulders if it's going to happen."

"I feel the presentation given by the inmates themselves was of more value; more insight, then all the other speakers involved in both the first session and this one. The more direct contact we can have with the inmates, the more motivated the general public will be to personally get involved and participate in constructive aid and change. In our discussion group, we spoke at length about one-to-one programs at McNeil, and I feel it would be a very great asset during one of the last two sessions coming up, to have the director of the program, or his representative speak, either during the program itself or in one of the discussion groups following the scheduled program."

"The inmate presentation was powerful--we have to see them more as <u>people</u>. I liked Kelleher's statement that the guy who rips me off doesn't think of me as a person either. I think what Kelleher said about it being a polictical thing, is true. There can be all kinds of good ideas for change, but it boils down to politics."

"Isn't there a better way? Jesus is a better way. Jesus is the best way. Jesus is the only way. I was overwhelmed with compassion as I sensed the searching of the prisoners and the speakers and the audience. Jesus offers love--the basic emotion we all need. He paid our price so we don't have to pay the penalty for all the sins in our lives whether prisoner or freeman."

"I was never aware that McNeil Island ever had difficulties with Steilacoom community, the families, prison rehabilitation, etc., but obviously there is. I think that weekend tours would be better for a lot more people."

"The world of prisons and prisoners has been to me a completely different, unknown world. It is interesting to have a little, albeit very little, understanding of it shown. It gives me food for thought and hopefully, I can grow a little from learning something new. Would like to know more about the one-to-one programme. My husband and I always have and will support the Prisoners Support House."

"Excellent opportunity for widely diverse opinions to clash--hopefully better understanding will result--misconceptions disappear."

"I have personally been a dissident member of our society all of my adult life. I actually had a physical response to singing 'God Bless America'. The group was active and dynamic."

"Talking about the stereotypes of people in prisons--Hollywood style--it's easy to accept those ideas when I don't think or come into contact with someone who thinks another way. It's too easy to forget about people in institutions, not to mention whether or not they're human beings with just as many needs as thosenot in institutions."

"If we can't respond to their (the prisoners') feelings, how can they respond to ours? Being an atheistic existentialist, I haven't been in a church for 2 1/2 years. Funny that it took something so unholy as this messed-up prison system to get me in again. . . .There has to be a way to start at the grass-roots level to get something done to change the prisons. We definitely need more community-based centers!! I happen to believe strongly in psychologically based 'rehabilitation.'"

"One of the most helpful things was the summary of last week's seminar--appreciated the words about the Prisoners Support House and its open door policy. . . .Frequent topic of conversation at McNeil is why Nixon and Agnew are free and <u>they</u> are in prison for less ."

"Inmate program excellent but emphasis too directed against society. Assuredly society must do more to change attitudes and behavior, but conformance must be adhered to. Group discussion completely missed idea that human aspirations must be directed in proper channels from infancy to properly reduce crime--parental guidance."

"The importance of the support house and a real need for such a thing near all prisons. The opportunity for poor families to remain in contact with members in prison and how much it means to the prisoners to have visitors. The realization of prisoners as real people. But I don't feel the question of what to do with individuals who have hurt innocent members of society was addressed. Concern for the imprisoned is important, but so is concern for the victim. Certainly, we must address ourselves to social problems that lead to crime, but once crime is committed something must be done with the offender. Rehabilitation."

7. Some unique, additional statements (Continued)

"The face-to-face encounter--barrier breaking!!!"

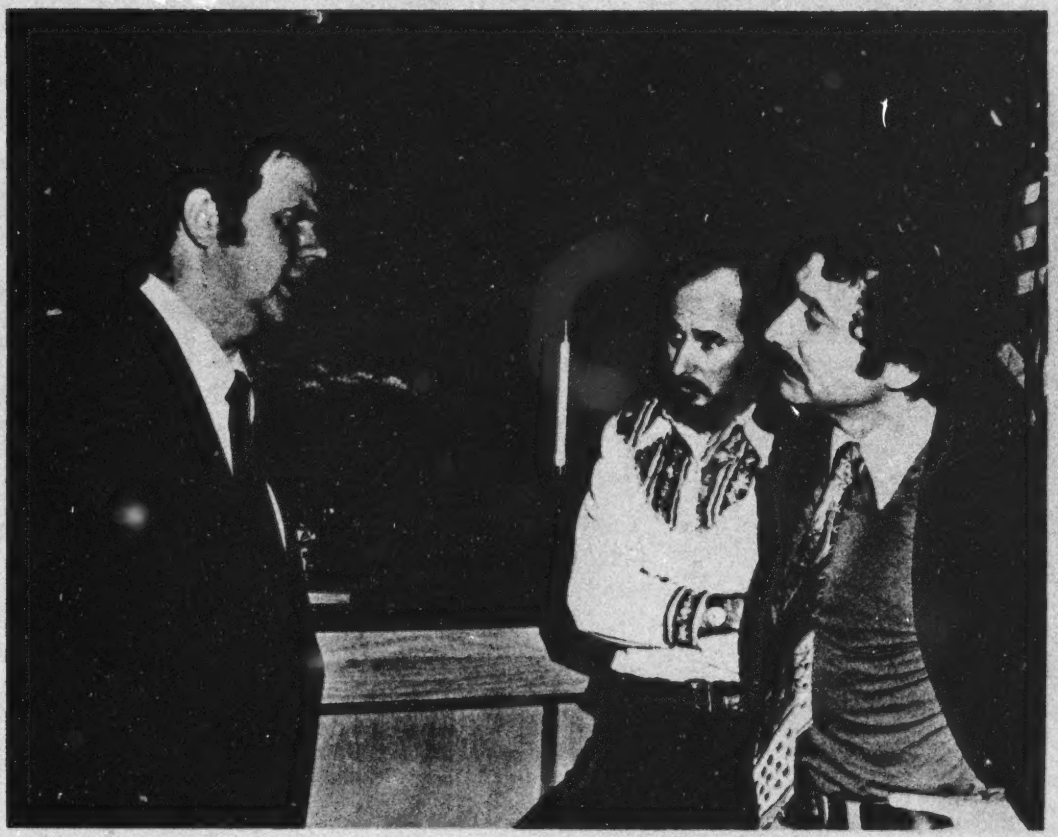
"As a member of society I sincerely believe change of the judicial and penal systems must occur. But as a member of society I seek the expertise of the experts. If they realize the need for change but do not know how, how can a layman differentiate between cured and not cured, and how does a layman know the changes that should come? Dr. Kelleher brought me to the point of changes for today, but I am confused to a point, regarding the change for tomorrow. I feel change has to come, by the expert's hand, with the guidance of society. The experts must lead."

"For this program, a lot more money is needed."

"The poetry and music enlightening. The psychologist's point, to see prisoner as a person, is important. The discussion group is a place to let out fears. Maybe therapeutic for some but not helpful to others."

"A new potential for reconciliation seems to be growing from our dialogues. We and the prisoners are not forgetting the victims that brought us together here this evening, yet somehow, we and the prisoners need to move to new hope and actions that build more caring, more responsible citizens among us all."

"A feeling evening."



Speakers in the third session, titled "Citizen Protection and Criminal Rehabilitation" talk over the main points of the session (from left: King County Superior Court Judge Donald Horowitz; Dr. John Strait, University of Puget Sound Professor of Law; Warden W.H. Rauch)

The main points were: 1. Rehabilitation of offenders occurs best in the community - prison is the last resort. 2. Punishment is not the issue in sentencing an offender. The judges' job is to choose the option most likely to help . . . the offender according to Judge Horowitz. 3. Alcoholism, drug addiction, mental retardation and mental illness are conditions that should be treated in a therapeutic setting instead of a prison.

In the second session, prisoners from McNeil Island gave a moving dramatic presentation of music, poetry and readings. In this photo, prisoner Ralph Henry is singing, "This Land is My Land." The residents of the town gained an appreciation that prisoners are as talented, sensitive and feeling as other parts of the population.

The program communicated the sheer misery and lonliness which surrounds the prisoners year after year. The dramatic reading emphasized the repressive and dehumanizing atmosphere within which the prisoners are expected to rehabilitate themselves.

Professor Jerry Kuntz, community resident Zenith Densmore and McNeil prisoner Ernie in a discussion group during the second session. It was the feeling of this group that community involvement does have a positive affect on rehabilitation and recidivism. Reform can occur if we direct our efforts collectively. It's not easy to take a look at the system without being overwhelmed by what we have to do.

STEILACOOM AND McNEIL: NEIGHBORS FOR ONE HUNDRED YEARS
THIRD SESSION SUMMARY
EVALUATOR: Dr. Leonard W. Holden

Oberlin Congregational Church
Steilacoom, Washington

October 17, 1975

RESPONSE CARDS

Adult Attendance: 134
Child Care: 5

Cards Returned: 86
Percent Returned: 64%

OCCUPATION

	M	F	TOTAL
Ex-Prison Inmate	0	0	0
Prison Inmate	0	0	0
Student	10	14	24
Homemaker	1	21	22
Business	3	2	5
Industry	2	0	2
Professional	9	8	17
Educator	9	9	18
Prison Employee	2	0	2
Government	2	4	6
Prisoners' Wives	0	4	4
Other	6	4	11*
TOTAL	44	66	111

*One sex unidentified

AGE AND SEX

	?	M	F	TOTAL
under 19		5	2	7
20-35	1	13	26	40
36-50		8	13	21
51-65		7	6	13
over 65		2	3	5
TOTAL	1	35	50	86

Number of persons reporting attendance at 3 sessions - 30; 2 sessions - 15; 1 session - 27; no response 14

The third of the four one-day seminars planned for the month of October, was held last Friday evening, Ocotber 17th. One hundred and thirty-four (134) people attended this program which included speeches by Warden Hardy H. Rauch, McNeil Federal Penitentiary, and Judge Donald Horowitz, King County Superior Court. Panel member presentations were made by Dr. J. Tim Hansen, Professor of English and Urban Studies, University of Puget Sound; Leo Brown, Executive Director, Progress House, Tacoma; Dr. John Strait, Professor of Law, UPS Law School; and Ted Wiseman, District Supervisor, State Dept. of Probation and Parole.

* * * * * * * *

I would like to digress from the previous two reporting formats in which the summary of remarks began by reporting the most frequent comments made by the members of the audience. Instead, I wish to quote one sentence that describes vividly what this whole project has been about. It was written by the young wife of one of the men at McNeil Prison.

In response to the request to write the best idea reported that evening, she wrote: "Just the thought of people on the outside trying to communicate with the people on the inside and they are really trying." It was hoped this is what could occur when the Steilacoom-McNeil Prison Dialogue idea was first considered, and hopefully it is happening. Now, back to a frequency summary.

1. "Bureaucratic lawbreakers must be brought to justice just as much as those who commit white collar or street-type crimes. I never thought of bureaucratic or political crimes before. Bureaucrats who prevent good laws from coming into effect, and effect thousands of lives, are the greatest criminals. ....we need to know about more than 'street crimes'".

2. "I'm relieved to hear Judge Horowitz say that punishment is not the issue in sentencing an offender--the judge's job is to choose the option most likely to help or correct the offender. And the Community is the best corrector. Prison sentences are used only when the community has failed or the offender is dangerous to society. Judge Horowitz stated a truth in that crime is best treated in the community. Judge Horowitz was bold enough to take a position on the punishment-rehabilitation issue--it was interesting and useful to hear a clear statement of this type."

3. Many of the thoughts presented by Judge Horowitz and Warden Rauch were woven together in the written reactions from the audience. They ran as follows: "A most enjoyable program. I learned lots. Judge Horowitz was informative--set stage. Warden Rauch gave a good picture of understanding at McNeil--you felt it was in good hands--all speakers were tops on the panel. Very educational. Thanks."

4. Several people were moved to note, "That we need a broader range of programs to deal with conduct. There is no single solution to the crime or rehabilitation problem. There is a great need for more workshops such as this to enlighten the community about what the prison system and ex-felons' views are all about. We need more cohesive, pre-

ventive community measures--getting organized as a community as John Strait mentioned seems a truly valuable suggestion--let's break down barriers between ourselves. Citizens must not neglect their responsiblitiy in watch-dogging the legislature."

5. Several people were most appreciative of Leo Brown's remarks. "The best idea or talk was Mr. Brown's speech--he said it all. Leo Brown said: "Be an example; give the ex-con a chance; newspapers--clean up your operation; require legislators to follow through." Another wrote: "Liked Leo Brown's practical, earthy remarks and heart-felt plea for rehabilitation and community involvement." And another, "Leo Brown hit the hammer right on the nail. He had the answer to giving a prisoner a second chance in life and that is, for society to give them a second chance and not to give them a reason to commit a crime again. They need to be trusted and wanted and to be given back their rights that make them a citizen and human being, which they are entitled to." Leo, (another writer wrote) made a good point about institutional food!"

6. The position of the parole officer, Ted Wiseman, received the most critical reactions. "The parole officer illustrated the entire problem. The rest of the speakers were refreshing, but the parole officer was terrifying. I felt he was a classic example of the penal problem. His attitude is dangerous to us all. I am sorry to hear that people like the parole officer are in the position to act in the parole area, especially a position of supervision in which he can use his "power" to affect so many people placed in such vulnerable positions.

IDEAS

"Alcoholism, drug addiction, mental retardation and mental illness are illnesses that should be treated in a therapeutic setting instead of a prison."

"Unless we get angry, it's our fault. This statement of Judge Horowitz's helped tie together the personal and political sides of the dilemma that we find so frustrating. Get <u>really</u> angry--file a lawsuit. Get past the <u>all talk</u> and <u>no action</u> stage to <u>some action</u>! Don't take "No" for an answer--stop hate with <u>I care</u> what happens (kind of attitude)."

"Get the information to the people that can help--the legislators--the media."

"Why is it the press is Johnny-on-the-spot to report bad news, but never, or hardly ever, report the good that happens? Let's hear what a <u>damn good job</u> the inmates are doing (when work, study release, or parole or furlough programs are succeeding)." "Let's get after our press to print the other side of the coin. Tell them we want the success stories as well as the others."

"There is definitely needed a re-structuring of the legislation concerning prison sentences and re-hab programs. Some laws need tightening and some complete change. As a citizen, the prevalent problem is the furlough system. A definite need for a better, perhaps more strict, selection system of prisoners for furlough is needed. With this, hopefully, the other changes. Then as a citizen I would be very willling to participate in the re-hab programs."

"It is interesting that <u>our</u> legislators feel crimes against property (bank robbery) deserve greater punishment (20 year sentence), than crimes against persons such as felonious assault (3 year sentence)."

"Agreed with the judge on taking each individual case as an individual--not lump all decisions by what the law prescribes."

"Dr. Hansen's thoughts concerning the mythology of criminology was extremely interesting and brought to my awareness level the hours of propaganda programming that occurs in our daily lives."

"Most informative, I've learned much tonite and I want to share it with others. I'm encouraged more to do my part and to arrange for speakers to help inform my local church and women's club."

"We have to learn to grow together to change."

"Love the summaries; helps the continuity."

"These very close sessions are definitely a very constructive learning process. Most rewarding to the cause and to the inner awareness."

"Judge Horowitz's comments on the bureaucratic law breakers was something that never occurred to me before."

"Does punishment truly help a man or does it turn out a worse criminal on society? Why is the largest percent of men behind bars low income people; are the real criminals behind bars? I hope these sessions help to open society's eyes and their hearts."

IDEAS Cont'd.

"The judge said we must assess programs as to cost and benefit to society. I think this concept can be applied to specifics in our community, i.e., the Prisoners Support House. The benefits of it are tremendous to society. If we truly believe its continued existence is important, we should work for its survival in a meaningful way. Specifically, help it financially. If it must relocate in our community, put our money toward this relocation, help raise money for this relocation. Put our money and our energy where our mouth is."

"Television is very damaging to society. I do believe we adults have been terrible forefathers for the future generation. I wish to emphasize the speakers' advice to us to write letters to the newspapers, TV, radio stations, legislators, etc., that are informed, so that our comments will make positive, clear impressions that will carry weight."

"From the meeting I received a knowledge of how important it is to let the general public know exactly what is happening at our prisons. This way people can see the progress in rehabilitation with our criminals. Also, I can see how the public can really help to do this. We need to get involved and we need to know the whole story, not just part. The news and press has to be straightened up in their information."

"The idea that there are no solutions to some problems in the crime and rehabilitation processes."

"The Warden's talk was very interesting and factual. He is not the sole custodian of these men's lives--we are. No one can expect anyone, especially the bureaucracy to solve the question of Punishment vs. Rehabilitation. We must be able to find the answers to the problems involved. Our answers and those of other conerned individuals will make the difference. Judge Horowitz made an important point: Punishment is only a tool; the real problem of rehabilitation lies directly on society."

"I cannot agree that incarceration as a punishment is relatively meritless. Most discouraging is the apparent drug/alcohol "lack of control" problem in the prisons. If "we" the people don't get firm control over this condition, we're unlikely--most unlikely--to ever realize any significant solutions to our prison/inmate/rehabilitation problems. Thank you for the opportunity to learn."

"The community should start the rehabilitation programs or at least make sure someone is getting the funds and starting the programs."

"Let's change it if it isn't right, damn it!"

Some unique, additional statements by members of the audience

"Enjoyed our speakers--it was really a growing experience."

"A concern and observation I have is that the people working to make rehabilitation a reality have to be open, positive-minded, progressive people dedicated to the prisoners and society in the broad sense and not to continuing and perpetuating the "system.""

"Bureaucratic crime is something new to me. Never thought along these lines. I am most grateful for so many new ways to think. Will spread the new knowledge around."

"When the Warden said he'd be brief, I was hoping he meant it. The food at the prison was hell!"

"It was my observation that the guard from McNeil was not allowed to answer questions fully because his boss was in the group."

"All of us were jarred into the realization that we ought to know more about prison life. That we must be involved and try to change our attitudes and those of people around us. So much food for thought, so many concerned speakers. A very informative evening. But one can only absorb so much!"

"It's been hitting me more and more. Any change we make in the prisons will be virtually ineffective unless we totally change society first. Do we put up with rising crime and recidivism or change all our values, norms, etc? And what do we change them to?

"After two sessions and a visit to McNeil, this is my input: a rewarding experience; since the real purpose of the dialogue was not published or specified until the second session, I didn't know the Prisoner Support House was the consideration. I attended one discussion group and while worthwhile I felt no constructive information was exchanged.

I sympathize with all creatures large and small but feel all have responsibilities which must be discharged in society. The legal and penal system meets the needs of the times--until everyone is perfect, this must suffice. If it is necessary to have a Prisoner Support House in this society, it should be part of the penal system and not the community."

Additional Statements, Continued

"The questions remain: How does one change society so that it responds to everyone at all levels and at all times? Are we perfectable or must we resign ourselves to our limitations?"

"Judge Horowitz stated, "Punishment must fit the individual not the crime." I cannot help but wonder who in his benevolent omniscient wisdom will determine just what particular punishment will fit the individual. Class bias and ethical commitments vary from individual to individual and certainly wide discretionary option will foster differing sentences and probably perpetuate class inequalities.

"Are we really trying to change illegal conduct to legal conduct? Is the job of resocialization best left in the hands of penologists? What of victimless crime? Judicial-type folks may be so steeped in adversary system role playing that they overlook or select out the inequities in our laws. Perhaps these antequated laws are just as much a causal factor of crime as the more traditional reasons cited such as deviance, genetic inferiority or moral decadence. The professor of law at UPS (Dr. John Strait) expressed many valuable insights and suggestions."

"I do hope at least in the last session there will be more suggestions on what an individual in the community can do for McNeil personally. . . .The Warden said on weekends about 600 volunteers go over to McNeil for different programs. I'd like to know what some of these programs are and how to get involved with them. All the education we accumulate from these sessions is valuable but if we value the prisoners as individuals, our first concern should be to be of assistance to them where they are now, in whatever way we can. If they tell us how, it is our responsibility; if no one tells us, it is their responsibility."

Both main speakers made competent presentations but on the whole, it was a demonstration of rote propaganda. We seem to need a lot more than middle of the road platitudes dealing with a very complex problem. It saddens me that a judge and warden appear to be so unimaginative and uncreative in their approach to the penal/criminal system. Old answers to old questions--they are really part of the system which is very removed from the basic changes in modern society."

"As long as prisons have been in existence, why isn't there data on the treatment of alcoholics?"

"Judges get better looking all the time! Warden, you avoided the issues in question. Are you afraid of being replaced or unpopular--you wasted 26 years! (We need) programs beneficial to the future success upon release--programs to ease the lonely, hard times the men must have, many knowing their families most likely will be gone. To build pride to overcome these wasted years--you, the establishment, are the experts, you arepaid to find these answers yet you fail. We all break the law each and every day of our lives--laws overrule other laws and more laws and more..."

"I don't get the comment--"They (the prisoners) don't think the same way we do." Aren't we categorizing when we make such statements? Aren't we really wanting to show that we are all people and trying to show our commonness? I would not like that comment if I were a prisoner?"

"Please remind panel speakers that it's not fair to take advantage of a captive audience. Some of us must hire baby-sitters to attend these meetings."

"Our discussion leader was tremendous. She organized all speeches, pointed out inconsistencies and weaknesses of certain speakers."

"Tonight was great! I can see the value of the "dialogue." Reform can happen if we direct our efforts collectively. I was very impressed with the panel. It's not easy to take a look at the system without being overwhelmed by what we have to do. But maybe we're on our way!"

"How can the general public get much needed information on how rehabilitation programs are really working so they can decide if the benefits are worth the risk? Public officials don't have time to talk to individuals and individuals alone aren't politically effective. Perhaps out of these sessions a group could grow which was interested in keeping up to date on what is going on, getting speakers like we had tonight together on a regular basis, evaluating information they get and then trying to find politically effective ways to prevent illegal behavior and to change illegal behavior. This kind of broader based group might help the Support House. It is in the wrong location I feel, but I've been very impressed with the atmosphere there and the job it's doing. It would take money, help, and change in local attitudes to find new location.

"We need more information on problems facing prisoners' families and children. How can they be helped to best cope with life?

STEILACOOM AND McNEIL: NEIGHBORS FOR ONE HUNDRED YEARS
FOURTH SESSION SUMMARY

Evaluator: Dr. Leonard W. Holden

Oberlin Congregational Church
Steilacoom, Washington

October 25, 1975

RESPONSE CARDS

Adult Attendance: 105
Child Care: 19

Cards Returned: 52
Percent Returned: 50%

OCCUPATION

	M	F	TOTAL
Ex-Prison Inmate	0	0	0
Prison Inmate	1	0	1
Student	2	9	11
Homemaker	0	10	10
Business	2	3	5
Industry	1	0	1
Professional	8	7	15
Educator	5	6	11
Prison Employee	0	0	0
Government	3	6	9
Prisoners' Wives	0	0	0
Other	6	3	9
TOTAL	28	44	72

AGE AND SEX

	M	F	TOTAL
Under 19	0	2	2
20-35	9	15	24
36-50	6	9	15
51-65	1	4	5
Over 65	2	4	6
TOTAL	18	34	52

Number of persons reporting attendance at all 4 sessions: -13; 3 sessions: -7; 2 sessions: -4; 1 session: -12; no response: -16.

The fourth and final seminar planned for the month of October was held Saturday afternoon, October 25. One hundred and five (105) people attended this program which included a major presentation by Edna Goodrich, Director of King County Juvenile Services and past Superintendent of Purdy Women's Treatment Center. The discussion groups which followed had the following guests as consultants: Judge Janice Niemi, Judge, King County Superior Count; Dr. LeRoy Annis, Professor of English, University of Puget Sound; Tim Bruce, Director, Puget Sound Legal Assistance Foundation; and Vern Hanson, Professor of Social Welfare, Pacific Lutheran University. A summary for the four seminars was made by Dr. LeRoy Annis and concluding remarks were presented by Mayor Lyle Dunkin, Mayor of Steilacoom.

The remarks made by those returning their cards at the close of this, the fourth and final seminar, were about equally divided between appreciation for the insightful remarks of Ms. Goodrich, the excellent quality of Dr. Annis' summary of the four seminars, and general gratitude for the opportunity to attend a series of dialogues such as these just concluded.

The comments reflecting these three points of emphasis ran such as follows: "Edna Goodrich's experience demanded our attention and respect." "Edna Goodrich's presentation was excellent...." "I was very much impressed with Edna Goodrich--'We never get through punishing the criminal.'" "Ms. Goodrich mentioned there is little in the way of mental health programs directed toward juvenile offenders. We need more. Nipping the problem in the bud sounds like one of the best ways to keep the adult from being an offender." Edna Goodrich did an outstanding job. She shows a sensitivity and keen perception in human relations. I really liked the way she talked about disapproval of the crime, but not the person.

"Dr. LeRoy Annis was tremendous in closing the program. His compassionate summation gave one a closer picture of an inmate--you must have feeling and caring. Annis' recap and closing thoughts were outstanding. Prof. Annis' summing up was excellent."

'It's been a fantastic series of seminars, and I really think there has been an increase in understanding. These programs should be continued. I feel this dialogue has furthered my understanding immensely. I hope such dialogues can continue in the future. Excellent symposium--would like more on other pertinent problems if they can be as valuable as this has been! Thank you!"

IDEAS

1. We need to tell offenders that we reject their crime, but we do not reject them as individuals. It's just not fair or reasonable to continue to punish an individual (and his family) for life because of one or a few events in his life.

IDEAS cont.

2. We too often try to solve the problem after the facts. The general theme throughout is, "Care for one another." Ther person in prison must face responsibility.

3. You had good ideas but you have to get money to implement these programs. Write grants.

4. One very interesting and potentially viable recommendation expressed in the discussion group was to select social-work-oriented individuals for positions of warden and assistant warden. Administrators with acute awareness of social problems and social dynamics within the various institutions in our society would hopefully be more amenable to innovative approaches such as the heuristic approach to crime and criminal behavior and victims of personal and property crimes. Wardens and assistant wardens have by necessity been political pawns and subject to many political forces that make the job of rehabilitation and social justice an impossible task.

5. The more public visitations into institutions, the less likely the abuse of power--volunteer!

6. Imprisonment and capital punishment not being a deterrent was a good point. Caring about each other is indeed the basis for any change. The idea of a person needing to have a good self-image and being able to set goals, is right on.

7. The best "idea" wasn't an idea, but ... LeRoy Annis' exhortation to <u>DO IT</u>. And doing it here in Steilacoom equals supporting the Prisoners' Support House.

8. I think there should be more said and talked about prison sentences--what to do about inmate work release, release follow-up on how ex-inmates are doing. Inmates must learn working habits--through work release.

9. It's too bad each of us in the community couldn't "adopt" a juvenile delinquent or an adult prisoner in a people-to-people, supportive program--not giving material things but rather giving guidance, support, encouragement--showing confidence in them and their ability to "make it."

10. We need a pragmatic solution to stop criminal activity. Balance pragmatic solution with constitutional protections and guarantees. Needed specifically: (1) juvenile subsidy unit properly funded; special program for abusive parents; (2) drug and alcoholic treatment centers outside of institutions; (3) new sentencing laws allowing more latitude for sentencing judge, including "shock sentences;" (4) effective probation for first offenders, etc., by funding probation and parole; (5) certain crimes to have amendatory sentences (low time served at first); (6) different types of prisons tailored to different types of prisoners--from humane maximum security prisons to community based institutions--with drug and alcohol treatment within the institution run by prisoners; (7) support for families, e.g., Steilacoom Support House; (8) help the victims of crime with money and services so they can maintain objectivity; (9) identify causes of crime and attempt to eradicate them--poverty, etc.; (10) be kind to each other.

11. No matter what directions the prison system takes, community involvement, and especially one-to-one relationships, just expand and become an integral part of it. There is not enough publicity about existing programs!! I'd never heard of the one-to-one program before the dialogues started. Let us know what we can do.

12. Advertize opportunities for community involvement with prisoners. Groups for families of inmates are also needed.

13. In Minnesota there is no follow-up such as parole and the "concern" of the parole officer. This might be something to try in this state. (This refers to a fixed sentence with no early release. One serves the full term and that is the end of it.)

14. I was inspired by some of the larger issues raised at this session: the responsibility of the American social structure for causing crime and failing to remedy it. Also, the critical attitude toward prisons and the hope for change. Such a critical attitude is bound to lead to constructive change in our prison system. Ms. Goodrich aptly pointed out that poverty leads to crime and we should recognize this.

15. Ms. Goodrich helped me believe it's not hopeless; nor out of reach of individuals (to help). I notice a moving away from questions why there are or should be prisons to a focus on individual responsibility on all sides for the consequences that result from criminal acts. I am left feeling now that the challenge is to politicize the people of the one-to-one orientation and senitize those of cause-oriented political persuasion to the individual needs for change and help of prisoners. Both are necessary.

Additional extended remarks by respondents

"I would like to say thank you! You have made it possible for me to finally show I do care. At the same time there are many others who have also been shown different ways and programs to help them care. With more programs like these I'm sure we will indeed change the minds of people."

"I think the work-release programs are important and that improvements for the better could be made before it gets shelved."

"Perhaps by communicating with this community today some of their pointless fears about the prison have been eased and directed in more enlightened directions. These people have to understand that the inmates are paying for their mistakes mentally as well as by physical imprisonment and should be given the opportunity to prove their want of change in themselves. We are all guilty of wrong doing at some time in our lives. We received understanding and the chance to prove ourselves having changed. Should I too close my mind to everyone who has made mistakes? My life would be void of people, for each of us is guilty of some destructive game we have played in life."

"All the general meetings were excellent--informed speakers, well prepared. I feel the group discussions were of little value; however, it did give the audience a chance to express ideas and perhaps this is of greater importance than I surmised. I am in sincere sympathy with prisoners and their families and feel the contact is necessary between them. Prison life has been compared with military life and I wonder why the prison system (federal and state) cannot do as the services and have a guest house on the premises where families can stay overnite for a small fee. I believe this would be better than such facilities in the community. I am glad that I have had the opportunity to attend these four meetings and visit McNeil--I am much more 'aware'-- thanks to you who did all the work! (What about the home in relation to crime? So little has been said about this.)

Finally, some summary comments from Edna Goodrich:

In 23 years of corrections work, I've met some of the greatest people in the world in prisons. I've never met a criminal who thought he/she would not get caught. I don't want to pamper lawbreakers, but, our punishments don't end--that's what is wrong--it carries on and on and on, to family, etc. We reject what you did, but we alwyas accept you as a person. Why do we deprive rights forever for once having broken the law? We've got to let exprisoners come back and have another chance. We were going to close prisons down, now we're wanting to build more. We've lost our caring for each other. Parents are sending unclear messages to kids regarding their valuing of schools. We have no main streets any more; no small, caring school districts--all big now. Stores invite kids to steal by bright, plentiful, valuable, desirable stuff laid out suggestively. Our prison job training release programs lack something when no clothes, tools, etc., are supplied. Not all prisoners are bad; they're all human beings. The Rights Movement got citizens into the prisons--that was good--prison officials didn't like that. We who run prisons can't do it alone ... we need you, the citizens. The families of prisoners confined--can we get jobs for wives of men confined? We make the families cry out too long and too hard. We shouldn't make someone pay a penalty for life. We've got to care about each other--hear the hurt. Community-centered prisons have got to be better. Children should be allowed to visit--college and high school students should be allowed to see how prisons function.

Speech

Speech Presented at Steilacoom / McNeil Dialoge

Oct 4, 1975

by Richard Lindsey

Executive Assistant & Warden of McNeil Island Penitentiary

Thank you Barbara. I hope that some of you can make the tour over there because to better understand the penitentiary I think you have to feel it and you can't feel it until you get inside the big cell house. It's an experience.

I'm just going to describe what's going on now a little bit at the prison and while McNeil is the oldest federal penitentiary, it's in no way, in my view and I've been in approximately 100 prisons throughout the country, no way is it old in terms of programs and the progress that it's making. It's a progressive, well administered, secure penitentiary - it is a penitentiary, it's not a nice place to be. But we have a number of good programs going on over there and it's administered by a career warden constantly in search of trying new programs and improving our operation. Now, what is improvement in a penitentiary and what is success? To understand this you have to look at what our mission is. Like it or not, our mission is to protect the community by maintaining humane but firm control and custody for those offenders sentenced by the court to prison. It's also our mission to provide high standards of care and treatment. It's also our mission to minimize the adverse effects of imprisonment and prepare the offenders to return to the community, hopefully as productive, law-abiding citizens. Are we doing this? To a reasonable degree, I think, yes. There may be some disagreement here, but the Bureau's success rate is about 70-72% just the opposite of what the public has tended to think and the researchers have intended to think, until about 1965. Two thirds of them do not come back, one third does. I think the treatment we provide is generally considerate and humane and we're working on that. I think the programs, particularly the education programs and the vocational training programs are reasonably effective. Can we improve in what we are doing? A definite yes. Does the community have an increased role to play? An emphatic yes.

Now, let me describe McNeil as it is presently. It's the oldest of six federal penitentiaries. It's one of 60 facilities run by the U.S. Bureau of Prisons. It's a medium security, adult male, long-term offender facility. Inmates are confined for a total of 75 federal offenses ranging from income tax evasion to narcotics violations to bank robbery to murder. 32.8% are there for bank robbery. 25.8% are there for narcotics violations. About 6.5% are there for violation of the National Motor Vehicle Theft Act, which used to make up a much larger percentage of our population. The population of McNeil for the past years range between 1000 and 1100. It includes 25 minimum custody inmates at the camp located about two and

a half miles north of the main facility and assigned outside the fence details. If we have an escape it is generally from the camp. The last inside attempt was back in January when I first came here. Two men went over the back fence. One was shot and killed. The other was shot and wounded, and pinned down. The average age of the inmate population is 36 plus, with the youngest just under 22 years and the oldest over 70. The average sentence is just over 10 years with the shortest 60 days and the longest life plus life. But actually 10 years, when you consider a man can get paroled at about 1/3 of his sentence, isn't a long time. Well, it is a long time to serve in prison but we're talking about 3 1/2 - 4 years before parole eligibility. The racial distribution - 68% are caucasian , 26% are black, 5% are Indian, 1% Asian, and 4% are other. Geographic origin - 51% of our inmates are from California, 12% are from Washington, 4% from Oregon, 1% Alaska, and 33% from other areas in the country and outside of the country. We have a lot of protection cases from McNeil

because it's an out-of-the-way prison. All inmates are required to work a 40 hour week, unless medically incapable or enrolled in the High School General Equivalency Diploma Program. Staffing McNeil are 350 employees of which about 15% are minorities. This includes 157 correctional staff, 42 in the education department, including part time positions, 30 Mental health and medical positions including some consultants. We have three full time physicians, 2 full time dentists, 1 full time psychiatrist. 21 in classification and parole and 12 religious, including part time. In addition to the inmates and staff, on the island there's a beef herd of about 923 and we're self supporting in terms of beef. There are 109 milk cows, 624 hogs, 2400 chickens . There are about 55 staff residents on the island. There are hundreds of deer, numerous racoons and 20 to 30 coyotes and I think one mountain lion. Something got my little beagle that I first came over there with. The annual budget at McNeil is about 6.2 million dollars, so you can imagine that that does have some impact on this community. The daily cost per inmate is 17 to 18 dollars. You could easily send one of your children to Harvard for that kind of money. Education activities are a major part of the institution program. They include the adult basic education program, the G.E.D., and 34 college courses. Also 6 vocational training courses. Electronics, barbering, welding, machine shop, small engine repair and auto mechanics. They also include seven apprenticeship programs, cooking and baking, plumbing, machinest, electrician, unholstery, carpentry, and cabinet making. 25% of our inmates are involved in the educational programs. Upon commitment to the institution the average grade level is 10, the average actual grade level attained is 9.3, They are often tested far below. The average IQ is 102. About 85 inmates attain a General Equivalency Diploma each year. There are 45 complete vocational training courses each year. An average of 170 are enrolled in the college courses at any one time. About 25 receive 2 year A.A. degrees each year and an average of 4 receive a B.A. each year.

Industry at McNeil includes electronics and furniture factories. The average number employed in industries is 340, with an average monthly payroll of $23,000. Wages vary from 25 - 63 cents per hour. There is overtime. Annual profits are approximately a million dollars and this goes to support vocational training throughout the Bureau.

Now, despite McNeil being a penitentiary with long term offenders, the climate is exceptionally good and you'll notice this if you go on a tour. There are several reasons. The style of administration is one; the type of staff and attitudes is another. The training that our staff has, the programs, the potential out of this institution is relatively good, as is the inmate attitude. Most inmates at McNeil, the vast majority at McNeil, are programed to go home, to get out. They're involved in programs, they're not making trouble. And another major reason is the large number of volunteers. In 1974 between 13,000 and 15,000 volunteers came over to the island to become involved in group activities. There are 39 inmate groups, including 12 service oriented groups, 5 culture groups, 2 social, 3 education and 16 religious groups. Why do I make such a point of citizen involvement? It's because prisoners change, some for the better, most for the better, some for the worse and some do not but could or would if they had the opportunity. Volunteers bring this opportunity. The resourses, law abiding attitudes, the reality of the outside world, concern for prisoners. This off sets the corrosive effects of inmate only relationships. It brings a fresh view, forces a look to the outside and future planning. In short, bridges the gap. Under Warden Rauch, McNeil more than any other Federal Institution is attempting to use the resourses of the community. Many of you know that it was not always like this here. We do it because there will never be enough tax dollars to provide all of the programs necessary. We think it has already paid high dividends.

SAMPLE OF EVALUATION CARD GIVEN TO EACH PARTICIPANT AT EACH SESSION

Dear Participant: We want your thoughts and feelings about this program. Please write briefly what you think was the best idea (most valuable, useful, sensible or worthwhile) that came out of this meeting. It may be your own idea, the speaker's, a member's (of the audience), or a combination of ideas coming together. A summary of the ideas turned in this evening will be given out at the next session of this seminar. NO NAMES ARE WANTED. Your reply is anonymous.

(For additional space, use back of card)

PLEASE DESCRIBE YOURSELF AS FOLLOWS:

SEX	AGE	OCCUPATION	
___Female	___Under 19	___Student	___Educator
___Male	___20-35	___Homemaker	___Prison Inmate
	___36-50	___Business	___Prison Employee
(No. of sessions you	___51-65	___Industry	___Govt. Employee
have attended___)	___Over 65	___Professional	___Other

The "Zeitgeist" or Fast Forum Technique which was used in a modified form in this project was originated and developed by Richard Spady, a businessman and Methodist layman from Seattle. The basic concept involved is to provide everyone who will an opportunity to "speak" (without threat from status people, power people or highly verbal people), by writing down their best ideas or opinions, and then to provide immediate feedback to all participants of all ideas generated by members of the group. This way all get to influence and to be influenced and to bypass manipulation or control by so-called "big" people. More information about this process can be obtained by writing directly to him.

McNeil inmates, Steilacoom seek to improve relations

The News Tribune Tacoma, Sun., Sept. 28, 19

STEILACOOM—Relationship between townspeople of Steilacoom and inmates of the McNeil Island Federal Penitentiary will be subject of a four-session seminar here in October.

Purpose of the four dialog sessions is to improve understanding and issues between the and the which the fir housed years ago.

All sessio

Tours of Mc will be schedu junction with t and a special c materials fro and Steilacoo display d at th

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CHANNEL

ASSOCIATED MINISTRIES

2520 Sixth Avenue
Tacoma, Washington 98406

ation at UPS, e program in cNeil inmates present original poet- music and dramatic

T. N. I. 10-26-75

Needs outlined in prison reform

erves ne peni- f improve- oup; Richard executive assis-

True prison reform must await the acceptance of greater responsibility by ordinary citizens toward prisoners and by prisoners themselves.

"Society must not say criminals must be forgotten and punished forever and a day," said Edna Goodrich, director of King County Juvenile Services and former superintendent of the Women's Treatment Center at Purdy.

She spoke Saturday at erlin Congregational urch, Steilacoom, to a se crowd at the final n of a four-part sem- n the relationship n Steilacoom resi- d inmates of the Island Federal ry sponso- acoom I

we hear about is building more and more prisons."

Taking a slap at the judiciary, Mrs. Goodrich said, "I charge the higher courts to become more responsible to avoid confusing all of us. It must show that the justice system is working equally for all.

"We must ask ourselves what we are doing to our children when through our legal profession we tell the accused 'Don't plead guilty to that charge, we'll get it on another charge."

Asking that both the community and the prisoner accept more responsibility, she said, "I want us to get to the stage where really care ab other...The never get ing the in- commit-

Here's hoping

Here's hoping a whole lot of people respond to the unique communication attempt being tried this month in Steilacoom.

With four sessions set this month, Steilacoom and McNeil Island are making strides to close the communication gap between the federal penitentiary and the community, thanks largely to the efforts of the Steilacoom Prisoner Sup

Times with Marv

By Marvin Ros

citizens. It is too idea to flounder for support. It is the k communication so institutions in the area do well to propose th selves as a link betw themselves and t community--any con munity.

With

U.P.S. Trail 10/17/75

Dialogue For Town, McNeil

P-I Pierce County Bureau

STEILACOOM — This, the oldest town in the state, is about to become the scene of a dialogue with the oldest federal penitentiary in the nation.

Under a grant from the Washington Commission for the Humanities, four afternoon and evening symposiums will be held for the relationship between the town and Federal

inmate/community dialo

by paula plamc

A series of four forums entitled "Dialogue Between Steilacoom/Mc Island" focuses on the relationship between federal penitentiary inmates and community at large. The forums, funded in part by a grant fr the Washington Commission for the Humanities, were originally sponsored to p the Steilacoom Prisoners Support House in a better perspective with the tow of Steilacoom. According to Barbara Fisher, Director of the Support House tween McNeil to encompass more than just the Support House. ve been brought together

PIERCE COUNTY

Steilacoom sets third seminar

The third in a series of ut we four seminars consider- s an ing the relationship be- we tween townspeople of of Steilacoom and inmates f- of McNeil Island Federal Penitentiary will be held Oberlin Congregations at 7:30 p.m. Friday in Church at 1603 Raini St.

The session's topi Protection Rehabilit